

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 152

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to recognize and applaud Bonita Stinecipher Irwin as an outstanding community servant.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Bonita Stinecipher Irwin is one such individual who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of Sarah Arminda and Joseph Henry Stinecipher, Bonita Stinecipher was born May 25, 1920, in the former Wheat community; she was the youngest sibling of Marvin, Annette, and Gertrude; and

WHEREAS, Bonita Stinecipher helped on the family farm and maintained the house in her youth; she began playing basketball for Wheat High School as a seventh grader and was a leading scorer throughout her career; each year she was named to the All-Tournament team, and she later played independent ball; and

WHEREAS, following graduation in May 1940, Bonita Stinecipher married her high school sweetheart, Fernde Irwin, with whom she raised two children, L. Gene Irwin and Pamela A. Irwin Purdy; and

WHEREAS, widowed in 1986, Bonita Irwin has remained active throughout the years, quilting, traveling, and visiting nursing homes while still attending her great-grandchildren's ballgames and recitals; and

WHEREAS, a participant in the Senior Olympics, Mrs. Irwin won the state free throw contest at the age of seventy-one; her team went on to play in the National Senior Olympics,

placing fifth in the nation; she won gold, silver, and bronze medals in a number of competitions, such as softball throw, long jump, and running; and

WHEREAS, never having lost her love for the Wheat community, Bonita Irwin is the organizer and treasurer of the Wheat Alumni Association and oversees the Wheat Homecoming each year; she has been instrumental in providing photos and historical information concerning the Wheat community to the Department of Energy, the American Museum of Science and Energy, and the Secret City Festival in Oak Ridge; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Irwin exhibits her devout religious faith as an active member of Dyllis Baptist Church, her church home for the past sixty-five years, which she has served faithfully by teaching Sunday School, working at Vacation Bible School, preparing food for church functions, and singing in the choir; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Irwin is a proven leader who has distinguished herself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and an exceptional asset to her community; and

WHEREAS, Bonita Irwin is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the Volunteer State, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we recognize and applaud Bonita Stinecipher Irwin as an outstanding community servant, thank her for her good works, and extend to her our best wishes for continued happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.